

**ALLOCATION AND USE OF PAYMENTS RECEIVED UNDER  
OIL AND GAS LEASES OF LAND OWNED BY THE STATE FOR  
A COUNTY ROAD**

**CHAPTER 1079**

H.B. No. 2521

**AN ACT**

**relating to the allocation and use of payments received under oil and gas leases of  
land owned by the state for a county road.**

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 32.201, Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 32.201. **PREFERENTIAL RIGHT TO LEASE CERTAIN LAND BY ADJOINING MINERAL OWNER; ALLOCATION AND USE OF PAYMENTS RECEIVED FROM LEASING OF LAND OWNED FOR COUNTY ROAD.**

SECTION 2. Section 32.201, Natural Resources Code, is amended by adding Subsections (i) and (j) to read as follows:

(i) *Subject to Subsection (j), any payment received from the leasing of oil and gas under lands owned by the state that were or may be acquired by a county to construct a county road shall be deposited to the credit of the county road oil and gas fund as provided by Section 32.2015.*

(j) *Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a lease of oil and gas under land described by Subsection (i) that is entered into on or after September 1, 2017, must require any payment under the lease to be made directly to the county treasurer, or officer performing the function of that office, in the county in which the land is located, as determined by the commissioner and described in the lease, for deposit to the credit of the county road and bridge fund of the county to be used for the purposes described by Section 32.2015(d). A lessee's obligation to make a payment under this subsection is satisfied by making that payment to the county described in the lease. This subsection does not create a cause of action for a county to pursue remedies under a lease described by this subsection, and a county is not considered to be a party to such a lease for the purpose of asserting a right granted by the lease or under this subsection.*

SECTION 3. Subchapter F, Chapter 32, Natural Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 32.2015 to read as follows:

Sec. 32.2015. **FUND.** (a) *The county road oil and gas fund is a trust fund outside the state treasury to be held and administered by the comptroller as trustee for the payment, without appropriation, to counties of money received from the leasing of oil and gas under lands owned by the state that were or may be acquired by a county to construct a county road.*

(b) *The land office shall deposit to the credit of the fund money received under Section 32.201(i) from the leasing of oil and gas under lands owned by the state that were or may be acquired by a county to construct a county road.*

(c) *Interest or other income from investment of the fund shall be deposited to the credit of the fund.*

(d) *Money in the fund received from the leasing of oil and gas under lands described by Subsection (b) located in a county, together with the interest or other income from investment of that money deposited to the credit of the fund, shall be disbursed at least twice each fiscal year, without appropriation, to the county treasurer or officer performing the function of that office. The county treasurer or officer shall deposit amounts received under this subsection to the credit of the county road and bridge fund of the county. Money deposited to the credit of that fund under this subsection may be used by the county only for road maintenance purposes.*

SECTION 4. Section 52.025, Natural Resources Code, is repealed.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

Passed by the House on May 4, 2015: Yeas 140, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2521 on May 27, 2015: Yeas 141, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 24, 2015: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2017.

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**DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICE RELATED TO THE USE OF  
CERTAIN WORDS TO IMPLY THAT A PERSON WHO IS NOT  
AN ATTORNEY IS AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE LAW AND  
THE PROSECUTION OF A CAUSE OF ACTION ARISING  
FROM THAT PRACTICE**

**CHAPTER 1080**

H.B. No. 2573

**AN ACT**

**relating to a deceptive trade practice related to the use of certain words to imply that a person who is not an attorney is authorized to practice law and the prosecution of a cause of action arising from that practice.**

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 17.46(b), Business & Commerce Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Except as provided in Subsection (d) of this section, the term “false, misleading, or deceptive acts or practices” includes, but is not limited to, the following acts:

- (1) passing off goods or services as those of another;
- (2) causing confusion or misunderstanding as to the source, sponsorship, approval, or certification of goods or services;
- (3) causing confusion or misunderstanding as to affiliation, connection, or association with, or certification by, another;
- (4) using deceptive representations or designations of geographic origin in connection with goods or services;
- (5) representing that goods or services have sponsorship, approval, characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities which they do not have or that a person has a sponsorship, approval, status, affiliation, or connection which *the person* [he] does not;
- (6) representing that goods are original or new if they are deteriorated, reconditioned, reclaimed, used, or secondhand;
- (7) representing that goods or services are of a particular standard, quality, or grade, or that goods are of a particular style or model, if they are of another;
- (8) disparaging the goods, services, or business of another by false or misleading representation of facts;
- (9) advertising goods or services with intent not to sell them as advertised;
- (10) advertising goods or services with intent not to supply a reasonable expectable public demand, unless the advertisements disclosed a limitation of quantity;
- (11) making false or misleading statements of fact concerning the reasons for, existence of, or amount of price reductions;
- (12) representing that an agreement confers or involves rights, remedies, or obligations which it does not have or involve, or which are prohibited by law;